

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

H-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 DRC-01 /057 W

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R 160930Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N T I D E N T I A L COTONOU 1601

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, DM

SUBJ: RADICALIZATION OF THE REVOLUTION

REF A. COTONOU 1600 (NOTAL) B. COTONOU 1564

1. AFTER CONCLUDING HIS DISPARAGING REMARKS ABOUT THE LOME WAMU MEETING (SEE REF A) PRES KEREKOU ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO "RADICALIZE THE REVOLUTION". THIS WILL INCLUDE A "PURIFICATION" OF THE ARMY AND THE GENDARMERIE TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE PRESIDENT. EACH MINISTER WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING OUT A "PURIFICATION" OF THE CIVIL SERVANTS IN HIS MINISTRY. HE INTENDS TO SUBMIT A SERIES OF PROPOSALS, THE NATURE OF WHICH HE DID NOT GO INTO, TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND SAID THAT IF THEY DID NOT APPROVE OF THESE PROPOSALS, HE "KNEW WHAT HIS DUTY WOULD BE"

2. COMMENT: KEREKOU SEEMS TO BE SETTING THE STAGE FOR SEVERAL NEW STEPS TO BE TAKEN. INCLUDED IN THESE MAY BE THE CHANGE IN THE MAKE UP OF HIS CABINET (SEE REF B) THE IMPLICATION BEING THAT IF MINISTERS DID NOT APPROVE OF HIS ACTIONS, AND THEY
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WOULD PRESUMABLY BE THE MORE MODERATE MINISTERS, THEY WILL

BE SWEEPED OUT. WE MAY ALSO SEE THE ELIMINATION FOR THE FIRST TIME OF A POLITICAL CIVIL SERVANTS. A NUMBER OF CIVIL SERVANTS ARE REPORTEDLY ALREADY WORRIED ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE IN STORE FOR THEM. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, WHILE IN LIME KEREKOU DISCUSSED THE RADICALIZATION OF CIVIL SERVANTS WITH TOP MRGD MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIR OFFICIALS. ONE HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL TOLD THE PRESIDENT HE WAS TOO BUSY DOING HIS JOB TO BE BOTHERED WITH RADICALISM. THIS ANNOYED THE PRESIDENT AND PROBABLY IS WHAT PROMPTED HIM TO GET INTO THE SUBJECT AS SOON AS HE GOT OFF THE AIRPLANE IN COTONOU. EMBASSY ALSO BELIEVES THAT KEREKOU MAY BE PAVING WAY FOR A NEW ROLE FOR THE ARMED FORCES IN SPREADING THE REVOLUTION AMONG THE MASSES. IN THE ABSENCE OF A PARTY STRUCTURE SUCH AS IN GUINEA AND TOGO, THE PRESIDENT PROBABLY SEES THE ARMY AS HIS ONLY VEHICLE FOR PROPAGATING THE FAITH.

CHESEHES

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